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CEREBUS

bi-weekly

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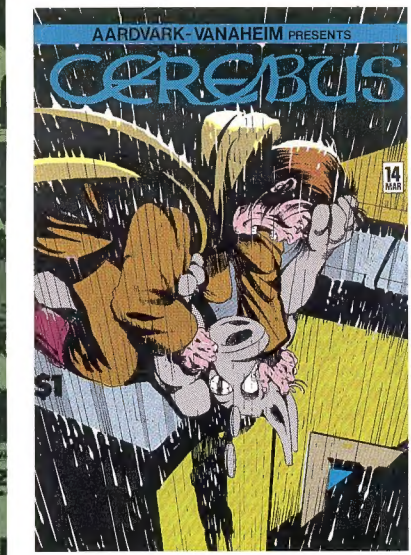

reprinting Cerebus number fourteen (1980) in its entirety

June 2, 1989

CEREBUS
bi-weekly
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CIRCULATION
15,000

DAVE SIM
President

MONIQUE KAPTEIN
Administrative Assistant

published by Aardvark-Vanaheim, Box 1674, Stn. C., Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4R2

The inside front cover of Cerebus 1 to 70 featured a 'Note from the Publisher' written by Deni Loubert. Dave Sim and Deni Loubert were married from October 6, 1978 to August 20, 1983. Deni Loubert currently resides in Long Beach, California and is the owner and publisher of Renegade Press, 2705 East 7th St., Long Beach, CA., 90804.

CEREBUS

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

First of all, I wish to apologize to everyone for any confusion caused by my last note. I know that I said the newsletter would be coming, but it seems we cannot afford the time or money. Dave goes into this a bit further on the letters page. We hope that the move from bi-monthly to monthly will help to make up for the loss.

You will notice that in the back of the issue, there are two ads. **All** the ads in Cerebus are for people who have helped us greatly. We ask that you patronize these people, because without their support Cerebus could not have come into existence.

This is the first issue to come out on the monthly schedule. None the less, I feel it is one of Dave's funniest to date, especially the characters. Of course, I may have a prejudiced viewpoint, but I feel that although different people get a giggle out of different parts, everyone seems to enjoy it. I am quite sure there is something in here especially for you. Why don't you just make yourself at home? Get comfortable and enjoy.....

Deni

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The introduction below was written for **Swords of Cerebus**, six volumes of which were published reprinting Cerebus 1 to 25. It was written in 1981.

(A *Cerebus Bi-weekly Special* will be released in August 1989 and will contain the 'Silverspoon' strips referred to in this introduction.)

Introductions

"Silverspoon" (reprinted from the Buyer's Guide for Comic Fandom 1980 issues.)

"The Walls of Palnu" (Cerebus #14, March 1980)

"A Day in the Pits" (Cerebus #15, April 1980)

"A Night at the Masque" (Cerebus #16, May 1980)

Hokay.

As I said in the last introduction, I was getting very tired of doing commercial artwork for milk and bread money. Dreaming up snappy slogans like "Femme Fit Jeans - They fit your Femme." Perfect J.B. I think it'll play in Tilsonburg. So I started scouting around for people to sell Cerebus to as a regular feature. Which was when I thought of The Buyer's Guide, a comics ad newspaper with a large circulation. The way I figured it, I could sell a series of one-page strips to be published in TBG each week. I would make a few dollars, the book would have what amounted to a free full page ad in each issue of TBG and best of all it would be time for Dave Sim of Kitchener, Ontario to play "Hal Foster for a Day!"

Seriously now, regional prejudice and national pride aside, not even considering all the pros and cons of Neal Adam's style versus Alex Toth's, the high contrast use of black and white versus thin line realism versus impressionist styling versus stylish impressionism, when it comes down to three-quarters of an inch of steel and a piece of paper and some ink and making a thatched hut with rough-hewn wooden shutters look like a thatched hut with rough-hewn wooden shutters in four lines or less, give me Hal Foster in his prime. Of all the artists I tried to imitate (and if you think Barry Smith noodling drops off the end of the average pen, I have news for you.) Hal Foster is without a doubt, the single most difficult to nail down, for a very obvious reason. The-man-knew-how-to-draw. *Really* draw.

It is a testiment to his sheer ability that so few people have attempted to imitate him and that the artists who have managed an *adequate* version of Hal Foster are outstanding by their rarity. Wally Wood's same *Prince Valiant* strip comes to mind - Jeff Jones *Valiant* parody I saw a few years back at a convention. By contrast Alex Raymond, one of Hal Foster's few peers in drawing ability was imitated by almost everyone in the fledgling comic book industry of the thirties and forties - slashing brush strokes for a background, sharp angular squinty features. Foster's style, as the ensuing eleven pages should demonstrate, is not as accessible. All superflous detail is eliminated. Every Foster drawing is like a well-designed vehicle. No wind resistance.Nothing there but what should be there. I mean, there are artists you can imitate by adding a pen stroke here, some cross-hatching there,

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some texturing on this bit. With Hal Foster you have four pen lines to get it right and then the buzzer goes and you lose the trip to Hawaii and the year's supply of taco chips. On the writing side, *Prince Valiant* has to be one of the oddest creatures going, past, present and future. On the one hand, it is an epic of awesome proportions - the closest in fact, to what I was attempting with Cerebus. Foster produced two thousand pages of Prince Valiant's life, starting when he's young, having him meet his future wife, lose her, find her again, get married, have kids, have the kids grow up and have adventures. Wanting my Val parody to be as authentic in it's literary form as possible, I read what pages I could get my hands on, hoping to find some "hook" for a parody.

It fairly lept from the page. Prince Valiant reads like an old issue of "Boy's Life" or "The Rover Boys go to College". There is implicit in the writing a sense that the Brits are just naturally superior to the Vikings, the Celts and any of those scruffy sorts who will come up to the gates, right up to the gates, mind you, without so much as a by your leave. Val prevails because he has good breeding, unshakable confidence, and a grander sense of purpose than these low-lifes.

Viewed from my own perverse vantage point ("Hey, you should see what Prince Valiant looks like from over here"), Prince Valiant becomes a pampered aristocrat, prevailing because he has more protein in his diet than any fifty Celts ("Jeeves, another pheasant"). A spoiled brat, unable to see his lofty position as anything but his birthright as a superior person. I just sort of stretched it a bit, really.

Hokay.

The time between Cerebus #13 and #14 was very interesting. I was right royally sick of doing commercial art (did I mention that, yet?) generally, and working for people who wouldn't know a marketable idea or effective drawing if they tripped over it, specifically. it was a rare bit of insight indeed, coming as it did on a clear, but icy cold January night. "Why not do the book monthly?"

I now knew for certain that I could draw twenty-two pages in a month's time - actually more like a month and a few days. I decided to cut the page count to twenty pages just to be on the safe side. I couldn't go to sleep that night . . . I thought I had died and gone to comicbook heaven. To never have to draw another newspaper ad, pair of jeans, cartoon mascot, soccer ball, Buy! Buy! Buy!, 30% OFF or SALE!.

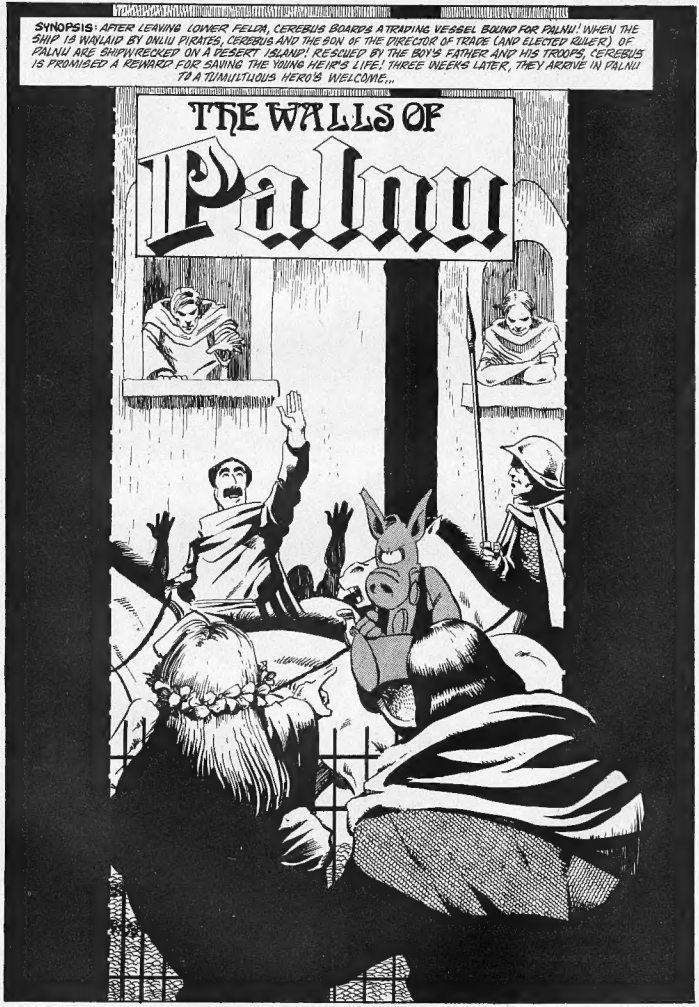
I waxed enthusiastic to Deni about my idea and, of course, she was not crazy about it. She reminded me that less than a year before I had had a nervous breakdown, ostensibly, from overwork. She reminded me that I had just started doing weekly strips for the Buyer's Guide and how would I find the extra time to do *them*? I protested that I would just stop doing the strip. She reminded me that I couldn't stop the strip in mid-story, I argued that the strip was part of the continuity, and would stand as a suitable transition between issues 13 and 14 someday. I'll leave it to you to decide if it does.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

I realized at the time that I started the Prince Valiant parody that the key to Silverspoon would be a father who would come to rescue him no matter what kind of trouble he got into. I had already selected Palnu, a city almost directly south of lest, unimaginably wealthy by virtue of it's position between the Feldwar States (Upper and Lower Felda and lest) and the Southern City States (Eshnosopur, Panrovy, etc.). I pictured it's ruler as the inventor of the Estarcion bureaucracy, a concept where you fight unemployment by giving everyone a government job (a

Continued in two weeks.

SYNOPSIS: AFTER LEAVING LOWER FELDA, CEREBUS BOARDS A TRADING VESSEL BOUND FOR PALNU! WHEN THE SHIP IS WAYLAID BY ONLIU PIRATES, CEREBUS AND THE SON OF THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE (AND ELECTED RULER) OF PALNU ARE SHIPWRECKED ON A DESERT ISLAND! RESCUED BY THE BOY'S FATHER AND HIS TROOPS, CEREBUS IS PROMISED A REWARD FOR SAVING THE YOUNG HEIR'S LIFE! THREE WEEKS LATER, THEY ARRIVE IN PALNU TO A TUMULTUOUS HERO'S WELCOME...



CEREBUS' EARS STILL RING WITH THE CRIES OF THE CROWDED STREETS AS HE SETTLES INTO JULIUS' OFFICE...
I'LL COME STRAIGHT TO THE POINT: AS A REWARD FOR SAVING MY SON'S LIFE, I'D LIKE YOU TO BE IN CHARGE OF MY SECURITY FORCES...
YOUR OFFICIAL TITLE WILL BE "KITCHEN STAFF SUPERVISOR"
WHY NOT "DIRECTOR OF SECURITY FORCES"?
IMPOSSIBLE--THAT'S THE TITLE I GAVE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY...
BUT, IF HE'S THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, WHY DO YOU GIVE HIM ...?
WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING A BUREAUCRACY, THE BEST WAY TO SAFEGUARD YOUR JOB IS TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW THE WHOLE THING WORKS...
SO WHAT DOES THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY DO?
HE MEETS TWICE A WEEK WITH THE COOK TO PLAN MILITARY STRATEGY
AND WHAT IS CEREBUS SUPPOSED TO DO?
AS I SAID, YOU'LL BE IN CHARGE OF MY SECURITY FORCES! YOU'LL MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE ASSASSINATES ME...
IF THEY DO, YOU'RE FIRED.

HOW MANY MEN WOULD CEREBUS HAVE AS... KITCHEN STAFF SUPERVISORS
HOW MANY MEN?!
I GIVE YOU A POSITION HALF OF PALNU WOULD KILL THEIR GRANDMOTHERS FOR AND YOU WANT MEN AS WELL...?
I'M NOT AS STUPID AS I LOOK, MY BOY! SUPPOSE I PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF FIVE MEN? SOON, IT'LL BE SIX... THEN TEN! INSIDE OF SIX MONTHS, YOU'LL BE COMMANDING MORE MANPOWER THAN THE SENIOR AIDE TO THE FILE CLERK!
AND A FINE KETTLE OF FISH THAT WOULD BE!
OH NO! I CATCH YOU EMPLOYING EVEN ONE FREELANCE SPY AND I'LL HAVE YOU REDUCED TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR SO FAST YOU WON'T REMEMBER WHAT A KITCHEN LOOKS LIKE...
CEREBUS FINDS THIS VERY CONFUSING...
LORD JULIUS THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SATELLITE CITIES OF PARMOC, CIHNU, AVERS, ENIATH AND JYLCEW AWAIT YOUR BIDDING...
I WOULDN'T BID A HALF-PIECE FOR THE LOT, BUT SHOW THEM IN, ANYHOW...
VERY GOOD, M'LORD!

MOMENTS LATER...
GENTLEMEN - AND I USE THE TERM ADVISEDLY - SINCE IT TOOK FOUR HOURS TO FUMIGATE AFTER YOUR LAST VISIT, I'LL MAKE THIS SHORT AND SWEET...
I AM ASKING EACH OF YOU TO PROVIDE A FORCE OF ONE THOUSAND FIGHTING MEN TO ASSIST IN REPELLING ONJU'S ANNUAL ASSAULT ON OUR FAIR BORDERS...
IMPOSSIBLE
UNREASONABLE
OUT OF THE QUESTION
IF YOU REFUSE, I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CALL UPON YOUR INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION AND PRESS YOU INTO SERVICE AS FRONTLINE MILITARY ADVISORS...
PATRIOTISM KNOWS NO LIMITATIONS!
NATURALLY, PARNOC WILL DO ITS BEST!
IS A FORTNIGHT TOO SOON?
THANK YOU GENTLEMEN...
DON'T SLAM IT ON YOUR WAY OUT
NOW WHERE WERE WE?
CEREBUS WAS ABOUT TO ASK... WHAT'S IN THIS DEAL FOR HIM?
AMAZING! SIMPLY AMAZING!
YOU'VE ONLY BEEN IN THE CITY TWO HOURS AND ALREADY YOU SOUND LIKE A NATIVE...
YOU'LL BE GIVEN YOUR OWN ROOM HERE IN THE TRADE BUILDING, ALL THE FOOD, WINE AND ALE YOU CAN CONSUME AND MORE SPARE TIME THAN YOU'LL KNOW HOW TO HANDLE...
AND IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, ASK SOMEONE ELSE! THERE'S A RUMOUR GOING AROUND THAT I'M VERY BUSY RIGHT NOW.
FOLLOW ME, SIR. I WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM.

CEREBUS HAD NEVER BEEN TO PALNU, BUT, IN THE COURSE OF HIS TRAVELS, HAD HEARD MUCH ABOUT IT! MOST OUTLANDERS FWLT AT SOME LENGTH ON ITS SIZE AND WEALTH! SINCE HE HAD DECIDED TO REMAIN HERE, HE WOULD NEED TO KNOW MORE! THERE WAS AN EXPRESSION IN SERREAL "WHEN THE DRUNKARD SPEAKS THE SOBER MAN LEARNS MUCH." WITHIN THE HOUR, CEREBUS HAD LOCATED A SUITABLE BUREAUCRAT AT THE "FROG AND DUCK" AND, FOR THE PRICE OF A FEW TANKARDS, IS SOON UP TO HIS MEDALLIONS IN INFORMATION.

THE ARISTOCRACY HAD ALL BUT VANISHED IN PALNU! BOUND AS THEY WERE TO THEIR ENORMOUS ESTATES, THEY WERE NO COMPETITION FOR THE THRIVING MERCHANT CLASS WHOSE ASSETS NOW GENERATED UNDREAMT OF INCOME. THERE WERE FIVE DOMINANT MERCHANT "HOUSES" WITHIN THE CITY WALLS. THESE HOUSES EMPLOYED "CLIENTS," EACH CITIZEN OF VOTING AGE BEING A CLIENT, THEIR LIVING EXPENSES PAID BY THE HOUSE "LORD" IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR VOTE. THE LORD, BY PAYING FOR THESE VOTES, ASSURED HIMSELF OF A PLACE ON THE "GRAND COUNCIL OF PALNU". THE LORD WHO OWNED THE MOST CLIENTS, AND, HENCE, VOTES, WAS MADE "GRANDLORD" OF THE CITY AND ITS SURROUNDING TERRITORY! AT THE MOMENT, THIS WAS LORD JULIUS! THE WRINKLE THAT JULIUS HAD ADDED TO THIS IDEA WAS THE SELLING OF TITLES FOR ADDITIONAL REVENUE! THE LORDS OF THE HOUSES (EACH HOUSE MERCHANT HOUSES, HAVING, SOME TIME BEFORE, RUN OUT OF THINGS TO BUY, NOW FILLED JULIUS' COFFERS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE TITLE OF THEIR CHOICE! THESE THEY HANDED OUT LIKE PARTY FAVOURS TO CONCUBINES, FAMILY BODYGUARDS, ACCOUNTANTS, NIECES, NEPHEWS AND FOOLS FOR THEMSELVES. JULIUS HIMSELF WAS GRANDLORD SUPREME, BARON OF THE HOUSE OF TAVERS, RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER OF PALNU, PRESIDENT OF PARMOC, COUNT OF CHNU...

THERE WERE A NUMBER OF OTHER TITLES HE HAD PAID FOR BUT CEREBUS HAD FORGOTTEN ANOTHER SERREAN EXPRESSION;

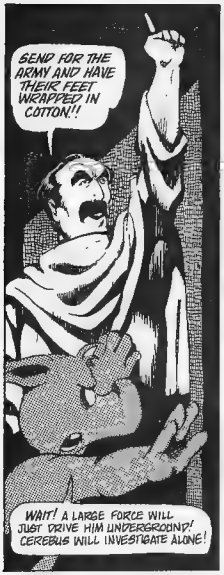
"WHEN THE BUREAUCRAT SPEAKS, THE SOUND OF SNORING SOON FILLS THE ROOM."

THE ENSUING WEEKS PASS LIKE MOLASSES THROUGH AN HOURGLASS! CEREBUS HAS KNOWN ADVERSITY AND HARDSHIP, HAS FACED DEATH IN COUNTLESS GUISES AND FORMS! NONE CAN COMPARE WITH THE LIVING DEATH OF BOREDOM AT THE CORE OF A BUREAUCRACY...

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF TAVERS -- WE ARE HERE TODAY TO DISCUSS A GRAVE AND PRESSING SITUATION... I AM, OF COURSE, REFERRING TO THE CINNAMON CRISIS! THERE ARE THOSE AMONG YOU WHO ASK "WHAT CINNAMON CRISIS?"
OUR SUPPLY OF CINNAMON FROM THE EASTAMAYAN WILDERNESS HAS BEEN DRASTICALLY CURTAILED BY COWARDLY ONLIU NAVAL ATTACKS! THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT BY LATE FALL, WE WILL BE COMPLETELY AND IRREVOCABLY CINNAMON-LESS...
IF I WAIT 'TIL HE'S THROUGH, I'LL STARVE!
THERE ARE THOSE AMONG YOU ASK "SO OUR BELOVED LEADER CAN'T HAVE CINNAMON TOAST WITH HIS HOT CHOCOLATE BEFORE BEDTIME -- WHY CAN'T HE BE A MAN ABOUT IT AND DO WITHOUT?"
MAYBE JUST ONE BITE.
THERE ARE PROBABLY THOSE AMONG YOU WHO SAY AS...
EEEP
WELL -- THAT WASN'T IN THE SPEECH, BUT IT'S NOT A BAD ATTENTION-GETTER.
LORD JULIUS -- THIS FOOD IS POISONED!
THAT'S FUNNY -- I'VE BEEN SAYING THE SAME THING FOR YEARS...

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO -- EXECUTE THE COOK...
BUT, THE COOK MAY BE INNOCENT!
YOU'VE OBVIOUSLY NEVER HAD TO EAT ONE OF HIS STUFFED TOMATOES!
THE ASSASSIN HAD MADE A FATAL ERROR IN HIS ATTEMPT ON JULIUS' LIFE... THE POISON WAS EXOTIC FOR THIS PART OF THE WORLD BUT CEREBUS HAD RECOGNIZED IT INSTANTLY! A FEW INQUIRIES LED HIM TO A NEARBY SHOP..
GIEPIE
GOOD MORROW -- A SHIPMENT HAS JUST ARRIVED FROM ESHNOSOPUR?
OOH -- YES! YES INDEED!
A FINE YEAR FOR WHEAT -- IT WILL MAKE A LOAF FIT FOR THE GODS!
CEREBUS WAS THINKING MORE OF A VIAL OF PENTAZIN...
A TOXIN NATIVE TO THAT COASTAL CITY...
I BUY ONLY WHEAT FROM ESHNOSOPUR! I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO TRY....
IT WAS QUITE FASHIONABLE A FEW YEARS AGO... ADDED TO -- SAY -- A BIT OF POULTRY IT WAS FLAVOUR-LESS, BUT VERY SWIFT IN ITS...

CLEREBUS CURSED HIMSELF FOR A PANDOVIAN.. HE HAD UNDERESTIMATED THE EFFECT HIS ACCUSATION WOULD HAVE ON BIEFIE. THE MAN KNEW NOW THAT HE WAS BEING HUNTED AS A TRAITOR...
AN HOUR LATER...
ONE OF MY IMPORTERS -- AN ASSASSIN?
SEND FOR THE ARMY!
WAIT!
LORD JULIUS -- THESE MATTERS ARE BEST HANDLED QUIETLY...!
THOUGH A MERE HANDFUL OF SECONDS HAD ELAPSED..
ALREADY THE STREET HAD SWALLOWED UP HIS CORPULENT QUARRY...


SEND FOR THE ARMY AND HAVE THEIR FEET WRAPPED IN COTTON!!
WAIT! A LARGE FORCE WILL JUST DRIVE HIM UNDERGROUND! CEREBUS WILL INVESTIGATE ALONE!

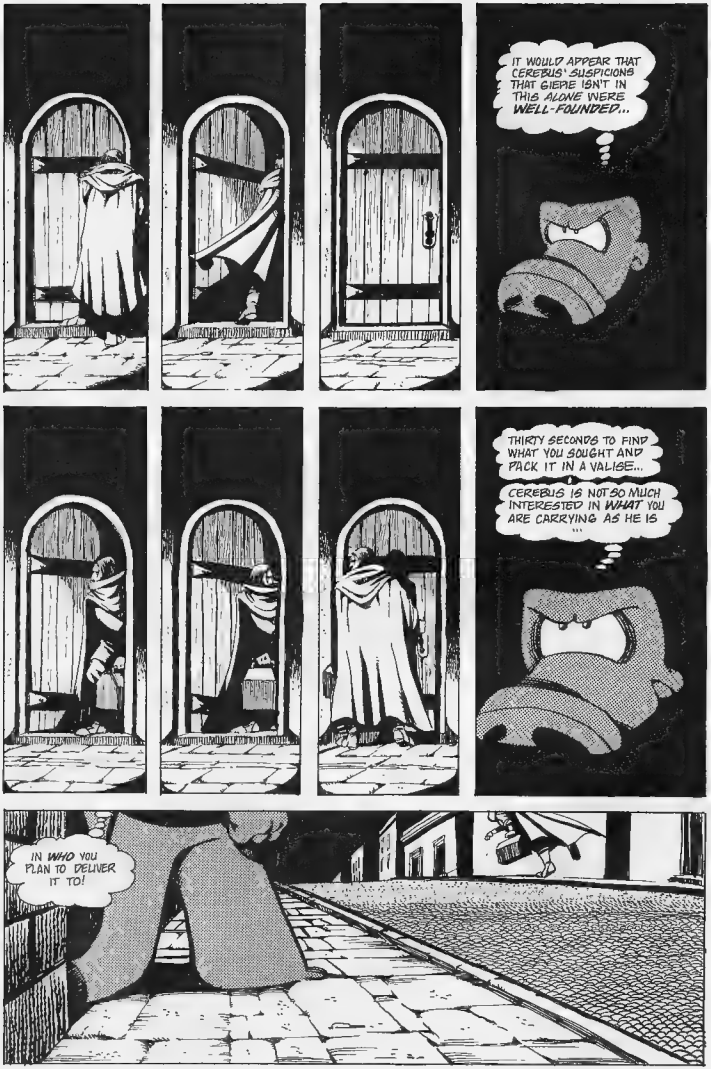
THIS MAY NOT BE A RANDOM ATTEMPT ON YOUR LIFE...
YOUR ENEMIES MAY BE ORGANIZED...!
THAT WOULD PUT THEM A JUMP AHEAD OF MY ARMY. ALL RIGHT!

VERY WELL, MY POINTY-EARED FRIEND-- I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE...
BUT, REMEMBER THE WORDS OF NEAFON THE GREAT WHO ONCE SAID "IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED"...
"YOU BETTER START LOOKING FOR A NEW EMPLOYER..."

IT HAS BEEN THREE DAYS AND STILL NO SIGN OF CIEPIE! CEREBUS WAS CONVINCED THAT THE IMPORTER WOULD NOT LEAVE HIS POSSESSIONS UNGUARDED MUCH LONGER!

AN ODD SHIFTING OF SHADOWS IN THE ALLEYWAY OPPOSITE HIM ATTRACTS THE EARTH-PIG'S ATTENTION

IT IS THE FIGURE OF A MAN MOVING VERY CAUTIOUSLY TOWARD THE FRONT DOOR OF THE IMPORT SHOP.


IT WOULD APPEAR THAT CEREBUS' SUSPICIONS THAT GIEPRE ISN'T IN THIS ALONE WERE WELL-FOUNDED...
THIRTY SECONDS TO FIND WHAT YOU SOUGHT AND PACK IT IN A VALISE...
CEREBUS IS NOT SO MUCH INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU ARE CARRYING AS HE IS
IN WHO YOU PLAN TO DELIVER IT TO!

CLOVIS' BURIAL MOUND?! THIS IS THE TRADE BUILDING! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT JULIUS SENT FOR GIEPIE'S BELONGINGS?
THAT IDIOT! HE'LL RUIN ALL OF CEREBUS!
...
HUH?
NOK NOK NOK
NOK NOK NOK
ENTER! THE MEETING IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
MEETING?

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
NOK NOK
NOK NOK
ENTER! THE MEETING IS ABOUT...
UGH
GUARD THAT MAN AND GET READY TO TAKE SOME PRISONERS!
AYE, SIR!
TO THE STAIRWAY! WE ARE BETRAYED! JULIUS' TROOPS APPROACH!
THE STAIRWAY!
ALL IS LOST!!
TARIM PRESERVE US!
QUICKLY!
GET AWAY!

AMID THE POUNDING OF RUNNING FEET, CEREBUS HEARS THE UNMISTAKABLE RASP...
...OF A SLIDING PANEL OF WOOD!
THE MECHANISM WAS NEVER INTENDED FOR ANYTHING MORE STRENUOUS THAN CONCEALMENT...
...IT RESISTS, HUMMING ANGRILY, FOR A MOMENT... IN THE NEXT INSTANT, HOWEVER...
AARDVARKIAN MUSCLES PREVAIL!
I AM CEREBUS, THE KITCHEN STAFF SUPERVISOR-- HALT IN THE NAME OF LORD JULIUS...
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN!
THE CHASE CONTINUES UP THREE FLIGHTS OF DARKENED STAIRS, LEADING, FINALLY TO AN OPEN WINDOW! WAS IT POSSIBLE THE MAN HAD JUMPED?

AS CEREBUS LOOKED OUT AND DOWN, HE DREW A SHARP BREATH -- ALREADY THE MAN WAS MAKING HIS WAY DOWN THE FACE OF THE BUILDING!
CEREBUS HAD FORGOTTEN THE INTRICATE DESIGN OF PALNU'S BUILDINGS! THERE WERE SUFFICIENT HANDHOLDS FOR A GOOD CLIMBER TO ESCAPE ALONG FIVE CITY BLOCKS WITHOUT ONCE TOUCHING PAVING STONES...
IF CEREBUS LOST HIM NOW, THERE WERE COUNTLESS HIDING PLACES IN A CITY OF THIS SIZE...
AND THE DEADLY GAME BEGINS...
AS HE CLIMBS, CEREBUS LOOKS FOR ANY UNEXPECTED CHANCES -- FOR, NOT ONLY DOES HE HAVE TO CLIMB DOWN SAFELY...
...HIS MIND MADE UP, CEREBUS BEGINS HIS PURSUIT...
BUT HE MUST ALSO FIND SOME WAY TO MAKE UP THE DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS QUARRY!

A GRAPPLE AND A WIDER SECTION OF LEDGE PROVIDE THE ANSWER.
THE POLE BENDS UNDER HIS WEIGHT.
HE SWINGS OUTWARD, ARCHING HIS BACK...
...AND LANDS -- BLOCKING HIS FOE'S ROUTE OF ESCAPE!
AS CEREBUS WAS SAYING -- THERE'S NOWHERE FOR YOU TO RUN...
...THE CHASE IS OVER!
YOU FOOL! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
CEREBUS IS DOING THE JOB HE IS PAID TO DO!
...STOPPING ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS!
YOU'VE SAVED THE LIFE OF A DESPOT WHO IS BRINGING THIS CITY TO THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION!

JOIN US!· THE REVOLUTION HAS NEED OF TRUE PATRIOTS WHO WISH TO RESTORE FALNU TO HER FORMER GREATNESS!
YOUR PLEAS FALL ON DEAF EARS, STRIPLING!
CEREBUS HAS A JOB TO DO·· NO MORE AND NO LESS! IF THE PRICE WAS RIGHT, HE WOULD FOLLOW A WOOP FAERIE IN A RELIGIOUS CRUSADE AGAINST THE ONLIU...
THE LEADER YOU FOLLOW·· THE LEADER WHOSE GOLD YOU ACCEPT SO WILLINGLY...
HOW'D YOU BOYS LIKE TO GO PLAY SOMEWHERE ELSE · I HAVE SOME TRADE AGREEMENTS THAT I HAVE TO...
OH! IT'S YOU!
TELL ME·· HOW'S EVERY LITTLE THING IN THE KITCHEN?
CEREBUS HAS FOUND YOUR ASSASSIN...
WELL, WELL, WELL SO YOU HAVE
I'D ASK YOU BOTH IN FOR A DRINK BUT IT'S GETTING AWFULLY LATE AND I HAVE TO GET UP FOR WORK TOMORROW...

HOW CAN YOU WORK FOR HIM -- THE MAN IS AN OBVIOUS SHAM -- A FRAUD!
HOW DARE YOU, SUH! -- I PAID GOOD MONEY TO BECOME WHAT I AM TODAY
YOU SEE? THERE IS ONLY ONE COURSE OPEN TO US -- YOU AND I -- ONE CHANCE TO SAVE THIS CITY!
WE MUST KILL THIS FOOL -- NOW! THE PEOPLE WILL FOLLOW US -- I KNOW THEY WILL!
NO.
I DON'T SUPPOSE ANYONE WANTS TO HEAR MY OPINION.
BUT WHY? IN THE NAME OF TARIM -- WHY?!!
BECAUSE YOU'RE BOTH IDIOTS! THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT HE'S FILTHY RICH AND YOU'RE DIRT POOR!
I'M NOT SURE, BUT I THINK I RESENT THAT LAST REMARK!

IF YOU'LL NOT JOIN ME IN REVOLUTION, THEN, BY THE GODS, YOU WILL JOIN ME...
...IN DEATH!!
SAY... IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU GET HIGH QUALITY ENTERTAINMENT RIGHT OUTSIDE YOUR BEDROOM WINDOW...
NGGHH! NGGHH!
OR OUTSIDE YOUR BEDROOM, PERIOD, FOR THAT MATTER.
PRE...PARE ...TO....D... ....DIE!!
THAT EITHER MEANS THAT HE'S ABOUT TO KILL YOU...

...OR HE'S REMINDING YOU OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING OUT A WILL.
NGHH, NGHH.
DON'T MENTION IT.
RGRRNHH! RGGRRNH!
MNRGHH MNRGHH
ATTABOY· HE MAY BE TALLER AND STRONGER THAN YOU, BUT REMEMBER-- YOU'RE SHORTER AND GRAYER!
ONLY A FEW SECONDS REMAINED BEFORE THE WEIGHT OF THE MAN CARRIED THEM OVER THE EDGE TOWARD CERTAIN DEATH...
FOCUSSING THE REMAINDER OF HIS STRENGTH, CERBERUS PULLS HIS SNOUT IN TIGHT TO HIS FACE...
AND, IN THE NEXT INSTANT, MANAGES TO TWIST INTO THE NECESSARY POSITION!
EARTH-PIG NECK, SHOULDER AND BACK MUSCLES STRAIN AND TENSE BENEATH THE GRAY FUR AND...
POOMP
UNH?!
PLEASE ...I...I...
PLEASE!!

PLEH
WHAP
I'D ASK YOU TO TEACH THAT TRICK TO THE TROOPS, BUT I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE THE EQUIPMENT FOR IT...
WELL, THIS CERTAINLY HAS BEEN QUITE A NIGHT OF ADVENTURE!.. I ¤SNIFF¤ I GUESS -¤SNIFF¤
IT'S CEREBUS' FUR--THAT ALWAYS HAPPENS WHEN IT GETS WET...
THANK HEAVEN!
I THOUGHT THE ONLIU WERE INVADING!
YOU KNOW- CEREBUS AGREES WITH HIM -- YOU CAN'T KEEP THIS CITY RUNNING IF NO ONE WORKS
WELL-- YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT I'LL GIVE THE MATTER ALL THE ATTENTION I FEEL IT DESERVES...
THAT'S WHAT CEREBUS WAS AFRAID OF...
CEREBUS IS GOING TO BED..
SO SOON?
YOU CALLED, LORD JULIUS?
CIRCULATE A MEMO.
"ANY MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD STAFF ALLOWING CEREBUS WITHIN TEN FEET OF LORD JULIUS ON A RAINY DAY IS TO BE EXECUTED!"
VERY GOOD, SIR!

CEREBUS
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June 2, 1989

This advertisement appeared in the original Cerebus No. 14

The COMICSHOP
OVER 4000 SQUARE FEET OF FOUR COLOUR FANTASIES AND FICTION

COMICS!
GOLDEN AGE to CURRENT ISSUES

SCIENCE FICTION

NEW
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ABLE

We also specialize in portfolios and signed prints gum cards posters big little books and original artwork Send $1.00 for the latest in our on-going series of comic catalogues (refundable with first order) Want lists of twenty items maximum are accepted Send SASE for reply

DEALERS AND SHOPOWNERS! FOR WHOLESALE ITEMS CONTACT

REALWORLD distributor

We distribute Marvel and DC comics, posters, fanzines, groundlevel comics, undergrounds, portfolios, art books and selected fantasy items. We also do mail order - send $1.00 for our catalogue (refundable first order).

CEREBUS
bi-weekly
June 2, 1989

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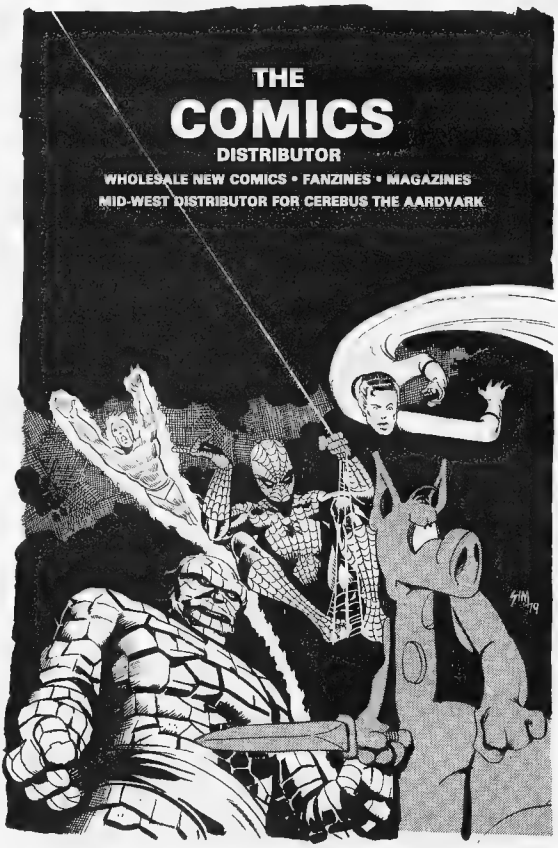

This is the original letters page to Cerebus No. 14

AARDVARK COMMENT

KITCHENER-ONTARIO N2G 1W5

Dear Denise and Dave,

Today I was hooked! A small furry grey creature grabbed my pant leg shoved **Cerebus** 10-12 under my nose and urged me to read them while prodding my mid-section with an oversized butter knife!

After finishing said trio I immediately ordered 1-9 from a local dealer. I anxiously await their arrival. The jump in the art quality from 10 to 11 is wonderful. From nice to great. I'm also interested in the mechanics of independent comic publishing since I'm heading in that direction myself. I've a few characters in mind I want to try after I get some feedback on them from appearances in other books like **RBCC** and **Heroines Showcase/Adventuress.** I realize you're busy, but any information you could pass on, I'd appreciate.

Paul M. McCall
619 N. Fess Apt. J3
Bloomington, Indiana
47401

As this is a reasonably frequent request for information, I'm going to print the answer here for the benefit of all those who may also be contemplating their own independent book.
(1 Assemble all the material for your first issue. 2) Take an example of what your product should look like to a printer for a price quote (i.e. Cerebus is 24 page demi-tab, 33" web offset newsprint, camera ready, black ink, cover printed on Kelmscott 120M white camera ready, etc. etc.) 3) Adjust the price of your book according to your quote, remember you will have to sell in quantity for forty cents on the dollar. 4) Send xeroxes of the contents of your first issue to Phil Sauling, Box 177 Coney Island Station, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11224 and Bud Plant, Box 1886, Grass Valley, California 94595 along with all pertinent information. They almost certainly won't front you the money for your project, but they can give you an idea of how many they will take when it comes out. 5) Raise the money. 6) Join the club.

***

Dear Dave

Congratulations on the continued success of Cerebus the Aardvark. It deserves every good review it gets! The characters are superbly written and the artwork sparkles. Your stories leap from panel to panel and page to page so flawlessly I sometimes think I'm watching a Looney Tunes cartoon (high praise indeed).

The fact that you can produce such consistently fine work while juggling the production drudgery a bi-monthly schedule entails amazes me. You've got my wholehearted admiration and support.

Best wishes to you and Deni on your marriage. I hope the future is bright for both of you.

George Freeman
CKR Productions Ltd.
7003F 5 Street S.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2H 2G2

George Freeman is the artist-extraordinaire of the newly revived Captain Canuck who was last seen headed south towards American newsstands with a very determined look on his face.

***

Dear Dave and Deni

I haven't been this excited about a comic since I discovered **Elfquest**. The art, stories, dialogue and obvious care that goes into Cerebus are great.

I was leafing through a couple of issues of Cerebus at my local comics shop, was impressed and bought all the issues they had available. That was issues 6 through 12. I intend to send a cheque to Harry Kremer to get issues 1 through 5.

In issue 6 you mentioned selling pages of your original art. Are you still doing that? I hope, I hope. Issue 8 was the first Cerebus I ever read and a wonderful introduct on. I love the whimsy and sentiment with the Aprcot Brandy. I don't think Cerebus should necessarily settle down with Jaka, but I would like to see her from time to time. She provided a nice counter point to Cerebus' sardonic side.

Issue 10 was a cover to cover delight. The Cockroach stories in 11 and 12 had me once again savouring the dialogue and appreciating your everimproving art.

I don't mean to slight issues 2 through 9. They too were enjoyed very much. If I've given you the impression that I can't wait until I get the missing back issues and buy all the new issues -- you've got the right impression.

You have one of the nicest balances of art and writing that I have seen in a long time.

Thank you for the enjoyment your work has brought me.

Best,

Ron Tatar
c/o KOKE RADIO.
Box 1208
Austin, Texas
78767

The price of the original pages has risen to twenty-five dollars, primarily because I only have sixty pages from all of the first twelve issues left and I'd like to hang onto some of it at least. Below is a list of the remaining pages available!

***

NOTES

An abbreviated letters column for this first monthly outing. All you guys are going to have to double your letter-writing if we're going to have enough reaction to print in each issue. This time around, it leaves me enough room to get to some pressing business that's developed in the last few months.

. . .

The 1980 Fandom Calendar has just been released from Smile in the Dark Productions. Cerebus the Aardvark in a pre-issue 13 drawing I did of Necross the hahahah Mad looms over the month of February and some very nice words written about me. The cover is by Wendy and the whole package is well worth the $2.50 charge. You can order one from FANDOM CALENDAR 1980 315 East Fifth St. 4 A New York, N.Y. 10003. Make your cheques payable to Jay Zilber.

. . .

I'd like to apologize for the times that we have listed Phil Sauling's Seagate people, Bud Plant and Jim Frai as outlets for single copies of Cerebus. While they do fill the orders, I have found out that they primarily deal with quantity orders. For those of you who are unable to get Cerebus from a local outlet, however, there is a distributor who handles single copies and tatatadaaa... subscriptions. We'd like to encourage all of you to continue buying from your local comic shop if you have been doing so. This is mostly a service for those of you who are completely aardvark-less. On the new monthly schedule, you can subscribe for one year at a time — $15.00 which covers postage and secure wrapping. Send those cheques now if you're planning an extended

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AARDVARK COMMENT

KITCHENER-ONTARIO N2G 1W5

trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina or anywhere else that our distribution is spotty. Address: John Anderson, AARDVARK FREE NORTH AMERICA, Now and Then Books, 103 Queen St. S., Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

* * *

As promised, here is a list of the original pages still available: No. 1 - splash page (a bit stained) No. 2 splash page (with the logo clipped off) 5,6,10,11,17,18,20,21,22 No. 3 splash (logo clipped) 3,4,7,8,9,12,13,15,16,17,18,19,21,2 No. 5 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,16, No 7 22 No. 8 15, No. 9 18,21,22 No. 10 4,9,12,13,14,15,17,18,21,22 No. 11 2,17,21,22 No. 12 18,21,22. Send a cheque for twenty-five dollars for any of these pages (please list alternates) to COMICgraphics, 47 King St. W., No. 604, Kitchener, Ontario.

* * *

We're going to be having a two day Comic Art Festival in Kitchener in August of 1989. In the spirit of not trying to make it a Profit Profit Profit Con, we are asking everyone for financial contributions in advance. The size of the donations will decide the size of the festival which will probably be held at a local hotel. Anyway, for those of you who like supporting such things, I am asking that you send $3.00 to Now and Then Books, address above, which will entitle you to a hand-drawn Cerebus membership card for the 1989 COMIC ART FESTIVAL which will fit into any standard plastic convention badge (and haven't we all got dozens of those that have accumulated over the years?). Your name will also go on a mailing list for information as it becomes available.

* * *

The cost of producing the newsletter, not to mention the amount of time it was taking makes the whole idea of it rather impractical. If there's anyone out there interested in putting their own Cerebus newsletter together, say on a quarterly basis, I'd be happy to supply them with all of the needed information and whatnot. I hope Cerebus' moves to monthly frequency will take some of the sting out of the newsletter falling through.

* * *

Finally, R.W. Main of Toronto, who has asked to remain anonymous sent us this snappy little item, hot off the newswire: "Bronx the aardvark was getting old, so he was sent to Miami to end his days in sunny retirement. But then Bronx found the fountain of youth a d became a father again — sixteen times! And zoo officials say he shows no signs of losing interest in mating. Bronx used to be the senior arrdvark at the New York zoo named after him. He was shipped south at the ripe aardvark age of thirteen. Now he is twenty-two, an aardvarkian record for life in captivity, and he continues to cut a dashing figure among the ladies. Bronx has even outlived many of his offspring."

Can it be that some philanthropist keeps slipping ale and apricot brandy into his meals?

Sex Education

At a very early age my mother instructed-

Father's instruction was just a little different-

I was growing up a very confused teenager.

I immediately sought expert advice.

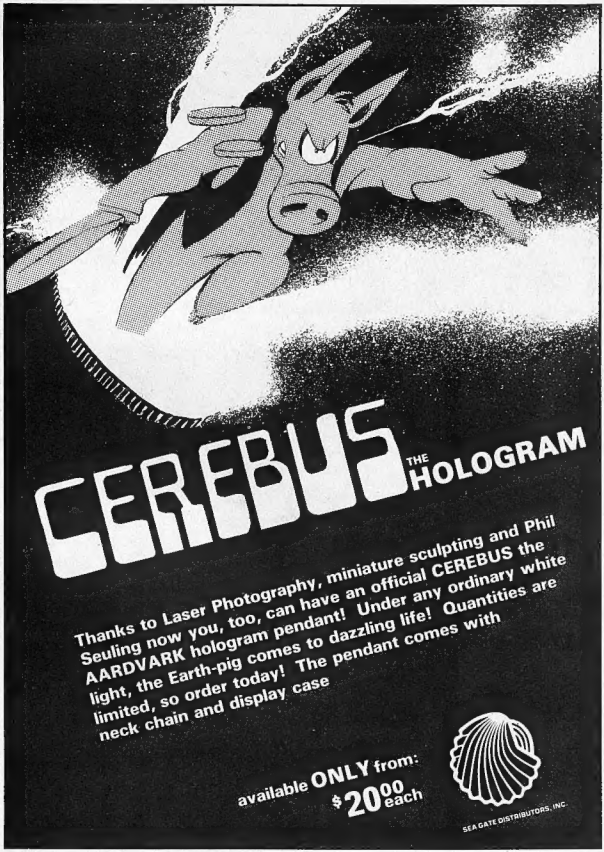
Life, they say, is the best teacher.

After several years of the school of life I finally learned life's one real truth-

But the answers didn't enlighten me much. Help was only a few years away, however. I was growing up fast and mother was worried. She talked to my father and enlisted his assistance.

This time I didn't consult an expert.

This advertisement appeared as the Inside Back Cover of Cerebus No. 14


CEREBUS
THE HOLOGRAM
Thanks to Laser Photography, miniature sculpting and Phil Seuling now you, too, can have an official CEREBUS the AARDVARK hologram pendant! Under any ordinary white light, the Earth-pig comes to dazzling life! Quantities are limited, so order today! The pendant comes with neck chain and display case
available ONLY from:
$20.00 each
SEA GATE DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

the original back cover to CEREBUS number fourteen

CEREBUS
AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS
CEREBUS
SOPHIA RETURNS...!
CEREBUS
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CEREBUS